GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:646
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2002
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AGRICULTURE FIELD
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Bio-technology and other new technological developments in agriculture field;

(b) the major factors for revolutionizing the productivity in future;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : Yes Sir, Biotechnology research has been used as precision tools for improving and sustaining crop productivity and improving the nutritional quality. The scientists are able to identify and transfer specific genes associated with desirable traits from one organisms to other that otherwise can not be done naturally. This gives a broader access to desirable characters and possibility of transferring these with much faster rate and greater precision.

(c) & (d) : A detailed plan in agricultural biotechnology with emphasis on research in the areas of genomics, genetic engineering for value addition, development of biotic and abiotic stress resistance in plants has been formulated. This would include research, large scale field demonstration, training of farmers and technology transfer. Crops like rice, cotton, potato, tomato, brinjal, cabbage, cauliflower, pigeonpea etc. have been targeted for introducing the desired traits through genetic engineering. Programmes to integrate prospecting of biological resources for new genes and molecules and development of marker assisted breeding would be an integral part of developing new crop architecture and molecular breeding programmes.

(e) : Question does not arise.